

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Newport Covered Bridge

other names/site number Morehead Covered Bridge, County Bridge No. 67

2. Location

street & number County Road 50N over Little Vermillion River N/A not for publication

city or town Newport vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Vermillion code 165 zip code 47966

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Pat R. Ruhl

4-25-94

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Newport Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Vermilion Co., IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: road related
OTHER: scenic attraction

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Burr Arch Truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: sandstone
walls WOOD: weatherboard
roof METAL: steel
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1885-1944

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Daniels, Joseph J.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Vermillion Co. Auditor's Office

Newport Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Vermillion Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	4 6 2 9 5 0	4 4 1 5 5 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arthur Bonwell, Member

organization Vermillion Co. Improvement Association date February 14, 1994

street & number 175 W. Redwood telephone 317-665-3753

city or town Dana state IN zip code 47847

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Vermillion County Commissioners

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Newport Covered Bridge was built in 1885 on the "Newport and Quaker Point Free Gravel Road" over the Little Vermillion River, at what was then called Morehead's ford. The County Commissioners named it Morehead Bridge, but this name wasn't popular, and the bridge is now known as the Newport Covered Bridge.

There were 24 separate sealed bids to construct this bridge. J.J. Daniels' \$6,800 bid was selected in the same action as approval to build an iron span a few miles to the north. Daniels unsuccessfully bid \$850 to build that bridge. The iron bridge is long since gone. The timber covered bridge is still in service, now for 108 years, which speaks well of the design and construction. In 1984, the entire floor was replaced in materials similar to the original but at \$68,500 almost exactly ten times the cost of the whole bridge originally.

Starting at 3 feet below the water level, some 68 piles were driven under each abutment location, not less than fifteen feet deep. Each piling was to be not less than 7 inches diameter at the small end and not less than 10 inches nor more than 14 inches at the butt. They were to be of Burr or White Oak. Two courses of good sound 12 inch square timbers were placed upon the piles and securely drift bolted to the piling.

The masonry was specified to be "of the best sand stone obtainable in the neighborhood and the whole to be properly bedded and bonded and laid up in good cement, in such a manner as that is shall constitute a first-class job of Bridge Masonry".

Specifications for the Morehead (Newport) Bridge were made by County Engineer T.Z. Anderson, but cannot be found in County Commissioner's records as have specifications for the other three covered bridges existing in Vermillion County. Most of the details, however, can be measured or deduced.

The bridge span is 180 feet plus 15 feet of overhang at each end for a total length of 210 feet. The interior width is 16 feet between the wheel guards but only 14 1/2 feet between the arches at floor level. The clear height is 18 feet. It is a Burr Arch truss design, similar to the other four existing covered bridges of Vermillion County. The trusses consist of sixteen repeating

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Newport Covered Bridge
Vermillion County, Indiana

panels, each a post and diagonal, and each panel 11 feet 1 inch wide.

The Burr Arch rings differ from other similar Daniels bridges, being of 11 inch timber instead of 16 inch timber, but installed double, with two concentric arches inside and outside each of the two side trusses, or eight total arches. They are bolted through the vertical posts with 1 inch iron bolts and the splices are alternated every other post. Throughout most of the bridge, the arch pairs are on either side of and directly in contact with the 9 inch wide vertical posts, but as the arches approach the end of the bridge, they splay out and are 30 inches apart where they bear upon the masonry abutments.

The lower chord members are 8 by 15 inches. The upper chord members are 9 by 12 inches, as are the posts. The main diagonal braces are 9 by 9 inches and the lateral braces are 6 by 6 inches.

The siding is 1 by 12 inch board and batten, painted a typical barn red. There are no windows. The walls are open on top, under the 2 foot eaves, by 1 1/2 feet, to provide light. The gable ends are flat and undecorated, painted a typical white with 1885 lettered above the opening.

The horizontal braces at the top and bottom of the trusses sit on iron shoes in notches in the vertical posts. They are held in place by one inch diameter iron tie rods spanning the width of the bridge.

Since 1885, some of the siding has been replaced and the entire floor was replaced in 1984. The original shingle roof has been replaced with sheet metal. The bridge is still in service and in good physical shape, despite some graffiti on the interior. The bridge retains its historic Burr Arch truss design and has enough integrity to merit National Register listing.

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Newport Covered Bridge
Vermillion County, Indiana

The Newport Covered Bridge meets National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion C, the bridge has statewide significance. It is one of 57 remaining Burr Arch timber bridges in Indiana. With a span of 180 feet, it is one of the longest Burr Arch covered bridges in the state. One of four existing covered bridges in Vermillion County, the Newport Bridge has local significance under Criterion A. From 1885 to the present it has been in continuous service on a main road in agricultural central Vermillion County, connecting Newport, the county seat, with Quaker, Dana, and the area's farms.

It was petitioned to be built by the Township Trustee, and the Commissioners decided in June of 1883 to construct a bridge, but the county "found no funds" and ordered it to be "constructed as soon as means provide". It was specified to be either iron or wood, but J.J. Daniels' bid of \$6,800 for a Burr Arch timber span won over the other 23 sealed bids.

The bridge was erected on a frequently traveled "free gravel road" at the ford at Samuel Morehead's farm, and the County Commissioners ordered it to be named the Morehead Bridge. The name did not stick, and it is universally called now the Newport Covered Bridge, even though it is nearly a mile from Newport. The gravel road connects Quaker with Newport. Historically, these were the largest towns in Vermillion Township of Vermillion County.

J.J. Daniels, builder of the Newport Bridge, was one of the best known bridge contractors in Indiana. He lived in Rockville in adjacent Parke County. Wayne Weber, architect and author of Covered Bridges in Indiana, suggests that Daniels was sufficiently free in contract specifications to build covered bridges expressing his personal architectural style. Daniels preferred the conservative Burr Arch truss, which introduces redundancy by having two independent systems-the kingpost truss and the added strength of the arch. Indiana's other leading timber bridge builders, the Kennedy family and J.A. Britton, also favored the Burr Arch truss, but Daniels experimented with the design by adding iron reinforcing and fittings. Newport Covered Bridge

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Newport Covered Bridge
Vermillion County, Indiana

reflects Daniels' experimentation in several ways. Use of iron shoes and tie rods provide one example, however, the use of doubled, concentric arches is unusual as well.

Weber notes that Theodore Burr of Connecticut was issued patents for bridge trusses in 1806 and 1817. Burr was a noted bridge builder in the East even before the patents. The Burr Truss became more popular in Pennsylvania and Indiana than in any other states, and more of that bridge type remain in Indiana than any other kind. All but a few of the about 60 timber spans that Daniels built used the Burr Arch truss.

The technique used by Daniels to build a Burr Arch bridge is well known. Stone abutments were installed, with pockets for the arches, and then a temporary platform on wood poles driven into the river bed was placed between the abutments. The trusses were assembled on the platform using block and tackle, and then pinned or bolted into place. The kingpost truss was built with a slight cant toward the center. After removal of the platform, the truss would settle to a true horizontal and the arch rings would be added. It has been stated that four skilled men and one or two helpers could erect such a bridge in three months after the abutments were complete.

Section 9-Bibliography

Biographical and Historical Record of Vermillion County, Indiana.
Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1888.

Gatewood, Arthur Jr. Indiana Covered Bridge Location Guide.
Fortville, IN: Indiana Covered Bridge Society, 1988.

Gould, George E. Indiana Covered Bridges Thru the Years.
Indianapolis: Indiana Covered Bridge Society, 1977.

Harvey, Max. Covered Bridges of Parke, Putnam, Vermillion, Fountain, Montgomery, and Vigo Counties, Indiana.
Wabash Valley Printing, 1964.

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**Newport Covered Bridge
Vermillion County, Indiana**

Ketcham, Bryan E. Covered Bridges on the Byways of Indiana.
Oxford, OH: Oxford Printing, 1949.

Vermillion County Commissioners' Record, 1885, pp. 32, 33, 54, 61,
156, 176, 177.

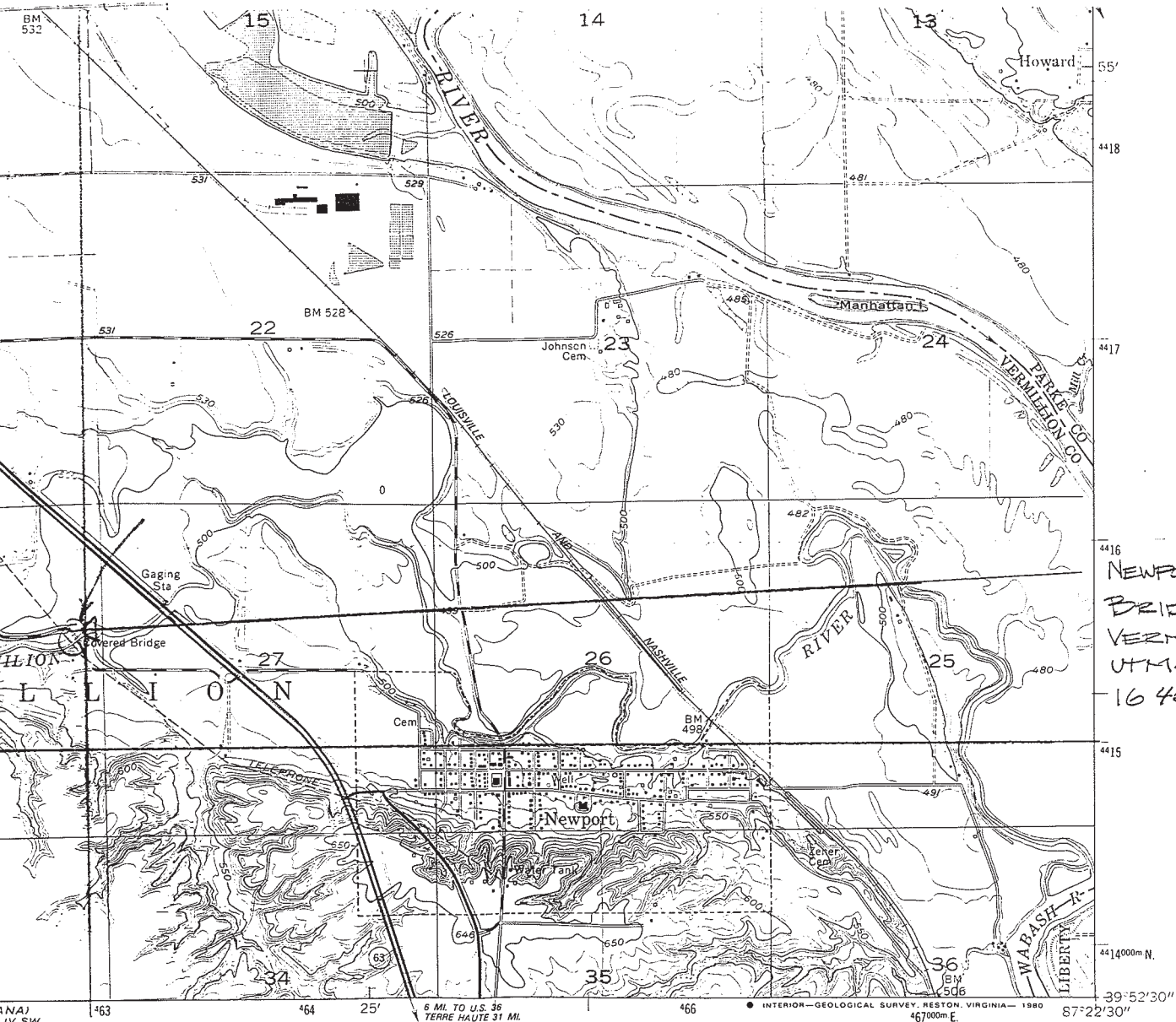
Weber, Wayne. Covered Bridges in Indiana. Midland, MI: Northwood
Institute, 1977.

Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

An area of Vermillion Township, Vermillion County, Indiana, located at the included UTM point, including the right of way of the Newport Covered Bridge, its superstructure, abutments, and wing walls, including 15 feet of the approaches on the north and south banks of the Little Vermillion River.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Burr Arch truss bridge, and its stone abutments and wing walls.



NEWPORT COVERED
BRIDGE
VERMILLION CO. IN
UTMS:
16 462 950 441556

1:24 000
1 MILE
1 KILOMETER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt = = = = =
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NEWPORT, IND.
N3952.5 — W8722.5 / 7.5

1964
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 3563 IV NW—SERIES V851

VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST